IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 22-~~24~~ without prejudice, amend claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-21, and add Claims 25-39 as follows:

1. (amended) A method in a portable computer having a display screen for [increasing] supporting increased portable computer compactness, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying data within said display screen; [and]

partitioning said display screen into a touch-sensitive input area and a display area[, wherein data input at said touch-sensitive input area may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, in response to a particular user input];

detecting if a user's hands are positioned at said touch-sensitive input area; and

graphically displaying a touch-sensitive pad at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive pad to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

2. (amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

detecting if said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area; and

concealing said touch-sensitive pad from view, in response to detecting [if] that said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area.

3. (amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of graphically displaying a touch-sensitive pad [at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprises the step of:

graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

4. (amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard [at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprises the step of:

graphically displaying a transparent touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said transparent touch-sensitive keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

5. (unchanged) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of displaying data in said display area within said display screen, in response to user data entry at said transparent touch-sensitive keyboard.

6. (amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard [at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprises the step of:

graphically displaying a touch-sensitive ergonomic keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive ergonomic keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

7. (amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

analyzing physical characteristics associated with said user while said user is entering a particular sequence of data utilizing said touch-sensitive keyboard; and

in response to analyzing said physical characteristics, configuring a sensitivity level for said touch-sensitive keyboard [such that the sensitivity of said touch-sensitive keyboard may be raised or lowered] according to said physical characteristics [associated with said user].

8. (amended) A portable data processing system [in a portable computer having a display screen for increasing portable computer compactness, said system] comprising:

a display screen and means for displaying data within said display screen; [and]

means for partitioning said display screen into a touch-sensitive input area and a display area[, wherein data input at said touch-sensitive input area may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, in response to a particular user input];

means for detecting if a user's hands are positioned at said touch-sensitive input area; and

means for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive pad at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive pad to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

9. (amended) The system of claim 8 further comprising:

means for detecting if said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area; and

means for concealing said touch-sensitive pad from view, in response to detecting [if] that said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area.

10. (amended) The system of claim 9 wherein said means for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive pad [at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprises:

means for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

11. (amended) The system of claim 10 wherein said means for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprises:

means for graphically displaying a transparent touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said transparent touch-sensitive keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

12. (unchanged) The system of claim 11 further comprising means for displaying data in said display area within said display screen, in response to user data entry at said transparent touch-sensitive keyboard.

13. (amended) The system of claim [11] 12 wherein said means for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard [at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprises:

means for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive ergonomic keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive ergonomic keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

14. (amended) The system of claim [12] 13 further comprising:

means for analyzing physical characteristics associated with said user while said user is entering a particular sequence of data utilizing said touch-sensitive keyboard; and

means for configuring a sensitivity level for said touch-sensitive keyboard [such that the sensitivity of said touch-sensitive keyboard may be raised or lowered] according to said physical characteristics [associated with said user], in response to analyzing said physical characteristics.

15. (amended) A program product [residing in computer memory in a portable computer having a display screen for increasing] that supports increased portable computer compactness, said program product comprising:

data display instructions [means residing in a computer memory] for displaying data within [said] a display screen of a portable computer; [and]

partition instructions [means residing in a computer memory] for partitioning said display screen into a touch-sensitive input area and a display area[, wherein data input at said touch-sensitive input area may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, in response to a particular user input];

detection instructions [means residing in a computer memory] for detecting if a user's hands are positioned at said touch-sensitive input area; [and]

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pad display instructions [means residing in a computer memory] for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive pad at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive pad to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area; and

a computer usable medium encoding said data display instructions, said partition instructions, said detection instructions, and said pad display instructions.

16. (amended) The program product of claim 15 [14 further comprising], wherein said computer usable medium further encodes:

instruction means [residing in a computer memory] for detecting if said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area; and

instruction means [residing in a computer memory] for concealing said touch-sensitive pad from view, in response to detecting [if] that said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area.

17. (amended) The program product of claim [15] 16 wherein said pad display instructions [means residing in a computer memory for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive pad at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further] comprise[s]:

keyboard display instruction [means residing in a computer memory] for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

18. (amended) The program product of claim [16] 17 wherein said keyboard display instructions [means residing in a computer memory for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further comprises:

instruction means residing in a computer memory for] graphically display[ing] a transparent touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said transparent touch-sensitive keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

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19. (amended) The program product of claim 18 [17 further comprising instruction means residing in a computer memory for] wherein said data display means displays[ing] data in said display area within said display screen, in response to user data entry at said transparent touch-sensitive keyboard.

20. (amended) The program product of claim [18] 19 wherein said keyboard display instructions [means residing in a computer memory for graphically displaying a touch-sensitive keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area within said display screen, in response to detecting a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, wherein a user may enter data that may be simultaneously displayed in said display area, further comprises:

instruction means residing in a computer memory for] graphically display[ing] a touch-sensitive ergonomic keyboard at said touch-sensitive input area [within said display screen], in response to [detecting] detection of a user's hands positioned at said touch-sensitive area, [wherein] such that a user may utilize said touch-sensitive ergonomic keyboard to enter data [that may] to be [simultaneously] displayed in said display area.

21. (amended) The program product of claim 20 [19 further comprising], wherein said computer usable medium further encodes:

analyzing instructions [means residing in a computer memory] for analyzing physical characteristics associated with said user while said user is entering a particular sequence of data utilizing said touch-sensitive keyboard; and

means for configuring a sensitivity level for said touch-sensitive keyboard [such that the sensitivity of said touch-sensitive keyboard may be raised or lowered] according to said physical characteristics [associated with said user], in response to analyzing said physical characteristics.

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (newly entered) A method of presenting a virtual keypad in an electronic system, said electronic system having a display screen, said method comprising:

determining that a user is touching one or more portions of said display screen; and

in response to said determining step, displaying said virtual keypad on said display screen proximal said one or more portions.

26. (newly entered) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

detecting that said user is no longer touching said display screen; and

in response to said detection, concealing said virtual keypad from view.

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27. (newly entered) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of displaying said virtual keypad comprises displaying a transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard proximal said one or more portions.

28. (newly entered) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

receiving input data from said transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard; and

in response to said reception, displaying said input data in first and second display areas of said display screen, wherein said transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard overlays at least a portion of said first display area and does not overlay said second display area.

29. (newly entered) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

analyzing characteristics of user input obtained while said user is entering a particular sequence of data utilizing said touch-sensitive keyboard; and

configuring a sensitivity level for said touch-sensitive keyboard, in response to said analyzing step.

30. (newly entered) An electronic system comprising:

a display screen;

sensing means for determining that a user is touching one or more portions of said display screen; and

output means for displaying a virtual keypad on said display screen proximal said one or more portions, responsive to said sensing means.

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31. (newly entered) The system of claim 30, further comprising:

means for detecting that said user is no longer touching said display screen; and

means for concealing said virtual keypad from view, in response to said detection.

32. (newly entered) The system of claim 31, wherein said output means comprises means for displaying a transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard proximal said one or more portions.

33. (newly entered) The system of claim 32, further comprising:

input means for receiving input data from said transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard; and

means, responsive to said input means, for displaying said input data in first and second display areas of said display screen, wherein said transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard overlays at least a portion of said first display area and does not overlay said second display area.

34. (newly entered) The system of claim 33, further comprising:

analysis means for analyzing characteristics of user input obtained while said user is entering a particular sequence of data utilizing said touch-sensitive keyboard; and

configuration means for configuring a sensitivity level for said touch-sensitive keyboard, in response analysis of said characteristics.

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35. (newly entered) A program product that provides a virtual keyboard for an electronic system that has a display screen, said program product comprising:

sensing instructions for determining that a user is touching one or more portions of said display screen;

display instructions for displaying a virtual keypad on said display screen proximal said one or more portions, in response to said determination; and

a computer usable medium encoding said sensing means and said display means.

36. (newly entered) The program product of claim 35, wherein:

said sensing instructions comprise program code for detecting that said user is no longer touching said display screen; and

said display instructions comprise program code for concealing said virtual keypad from view, in response to said detection.

37. (newly entered) The program product of claim 36, wherein said display instructions comprise program code for displaying a transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard proximal said one or more portions.

38. (newly entered) The program product of claim 36, wherein said computer usable medium further encodes:

input instructions for receiving input data from said transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard; and

output instructions, responsive to receipt of said input data, for displaying said input data in first and second display areas of said display screen, wherein said transparent, touch-sensitive keyboard overlays at least a portion of said first display area and does not overlay said second display area.

39. (newly entered) The program product of claim 38, wherein said computer usable medium further encodes:

analysis instructions for analyzing characteristics of input data obtained while said user is entering a particular sequence of data utilizing said touch-sensitive keyboard; and

configuration instructions for configuring a sensitivity level for said touch-sensitive keyboard, in response to analysis of said characteristics.